



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ouachita National Forest
Cold Springs Ranger District

PO Box 417
Booneville, AR 72927

File Code: 1950

Date: September 30, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed” (40 CFR 1501.7). I request your input on the attached proposed actions regarding management of the West Haw Creek Ecological Management Unit.

Relationship to LRMP Goals and Objectives

The Revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Revised Forest Plan) guides all natural resource management activities for the Ouachita National Forest by establishing long-range goals (desired conditions), short-range priorities and objectives, management prescriptions and associated standards, and monitoring and evaluation requirements. This proposal would implement the Revised Forest Plan direction. The desired conditions, objectives and Proposed Actions are attached. Electronic information on this project is located at <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=47489>.

Invitation to Participate in Project Planning

Scoping is not limited to a single point in time; we will continue to accept and consider comments until an implementation decision is made. With that said, your comments will be most helpful if they are received by October 30, 2015. They will help us identify environmental issues associated with implementation, and alternative ways to meet Forest plan objectives and desired conditions. Your involvement will enable us to better assess concerns of the public. Comments may be mailed to Donna Reagan, PO Box 417, Booneville, AR 72927, or emailed to dreagan@fs.fed.us. Please specify your email comments relate to this project.

Upcoming Project Planning Steps

As stated above, your comments will help us identify issues and they will be used to formulate alternatives to this proposal. An environmental analysis will be conducted and the results will be documented in an environmental assessment (EA). This project is subject to subparts A and B of 36 CFR Part 218 Project-Level Predecisional Administrative Review Process (objection process). Upon completion, the draft EA will be released for public review and comment. A formal 30-day notice and comment period pursuant to 36 CFR 218 will be initiated. Commenting during the notice and comment period will afford you standing to file an objection to the project, should you desire. If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Donna Reagan at (479) 675-3233 or dreagan@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/JOHN STROM *for*
AJ BRIGANCE
District Ranger

